

**Free tax assistance available**

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Partner for Community Action is gearing up for the annual free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Income eligible taxpayers earning less than \$57,000 annually qualify and should call 413-263-6500 to schedule an appointment.

**TAX, 11**



**Road Race going virtual for 2021**

HOLYOKE – If you haven’t heard by now, for the second year in a row, the Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Road Race has been cancelled due to concerns surrounding COVID-19.

We certainly didn’t come to this decision lightly but in the interest of our participants, volunteers, and our community we have cancelled this year’s in person race. We’ve been looking forward to the race since the cancellation last year, never thinking this pandemic would last this long.

**RACE, 11**

**Movement program offered for area youth**

WESTFIELD – The YMCA of Greater Westfield, in collaboration with Baystate Health, is offering the MIGHTY (Moving, Improving, and Gaining Health Together at the YMCA) program; Now enrolling children between the ages of 8 and 10. Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**MOVEMENT, 11**

# Virtual school meeting hacked

**By Gregory A. Scibelli**  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – It has been a struggle for students in the Holyoke Public Schools. Students have not been able to have a regular presence in the classrooms, and high school and many youth sports have been taken away due to Holyoke’s consistent high-risk status.

On Wednesday night, the freedom of the Internet was taken away as well.

Following the unfortunate decision Holyoke’s Receiver/Superintendent had to make in postponing the return to in-person learning for most students, a Special Education Parent Advisory Council Town Hall meeting was scheduled to talk about issues facing that population.

During that meeting, which was scheduled to be about 90 minutes long online, there was some type of hack

that resulted in what the district described as “revolting behavior.”

The school district has immediately launched an investigation into the incident in order to determine how the hacking occurred so it will not happen again as well as to seek out those who are responsible for the incident.

Marianne Currier, Chief of Pupil Services, released a statement late Wednesday evening condemning the hacking incident.

“We are writing to you this evening to apologize for the horrific cyber-hacking incident that occurred during the Special Education Parent Advisory Council Town Hall Meeting on January 20, 2021,” Currier said. “Our meeting, dedicated to collaboration, information sharing, and unity, was egregiously interrupted and commanded

*See HACKED, page 11*

## Report clears Morse of any policy violations

**By Gregory A. Scibelli**  
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – While it was too late to help him in his bid to unseat First Congressional District Representative Richard Neal, Mayor Alex Morse has been vindicated by an independent report conducted by the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

With just a few weeks left before the Democratic primary, the Daily Collegian, a publication at UMass, published a letter from the College Democrats of Massachusetts and its chapters at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Amherst College.

The letter alleges Morse engaged in sexual relationships with students at the school. It further states he abused his power as an adjunct faculty member and someone of heavily involved in politics to engage in sexual relationships for his gain.

Natashia Tidwell, an attorney who is a partner at Saul Ewing, Arnstein & Lehr, a Boston law firm, conducted the investigation on behalf of UMass into Morse’s behavior. She conducted many interviews and was also searching for Title IX violations committed by Morse.

Tidwell and her firm found Morse did not violate any school policy when he utilized a dating app to pursue relationships with college students.

Morse, 31, had been serving as an adjunct professor at UMass teaching courses in classes like political science.



Devin Sheehan

Tidwell also found Morse did not violate Title IX.

“Alex Morse’s pursuit of dating or sexual relationships with university students made a number of students uncomfortable and led to UMass Democrats’ decision to disinvite him from future events but did not unreasonably interfere with any student’s academic performance or ability to participate in university programs or activities under the university’s sexual harassment policy,” the report concluded.

The university’s policy specifically bans relationships between professors and students in situations where the professor has a direct influence on a student’s standing in an academic course or in an extracurricular activity.

As the report continues, Tidwell suggests that Morse did not violate the proverbial “letter of the law,” his pursuit of the relationships could be considered inconsistent with other policies concerning employee conduct.

As a result, the university has said the findings will be used to review and possibly make changes to its own policies. Relationships between professors and students are “discouraged” in school policy. With the recent review, it is possible they could be banned altogether.

As a result of the allegations, Morse was not invited back to teach at the school this fall as an adjunct professor.

Morse said in a statement following the release of the

## Vets receive second dose of vaccines

**By Gregory A. Scibelli**  
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HOLYOKE – Following one of the deadliest outbreaks in the country at a long-term care facility, the veterans residing at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

It will likely take another month or two for the residents of the facility to be completely safe from the virus, but the home was among one of the first care facilities vaccines were administered to.

According to reports, it takes about five or six weeks for the vaccine to give an individual the full immune response it intends. The vaccines approved for use have been reported to have more than 94 percent efficacy rates.

The Pfizer vaccine was distributed to 118 veterans in December, with veterans receiving their second dose of it earlier this week.

Nearly 80 veterans died of COVID-19 after extended exposure occurred very early in the pandemic.

Former Superintendent Bennett Walsh and his medical director are being charged in the deaths and are awaiting trial. The charges were filed by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey.

There are still some residents of the home that are in the hospital for various reasons. Some residents who were infected with the virus had to be isolated at Holyoke Medical Center once state officials got a grip on the outbreak.

There are \$6 million worth of renovations happening at the home currently, but a coalition and the state are seeking a \$300 million new facility for the home.



Most of the veterans at the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home have now received their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

*File photo*

*See MORSE, page 11*



# Holyoke Mall welcomes Latino’s Cuisine

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Mall has welcomed another small business to the shopping center with Latino’s Cuisine, open for breakfast, lunch and dinner on the upper level near JCPenney. Latino’s Cuisine originally opened as a pop-up tenant in December of 2019, serving hearty portions of authentic Latin favorites.

Inspiration for menu items comes from the Caribbean, South America and Africa. Breakfast options include traditional sandwiches as well as Dominican favorite, Los Tres Golpes Mangu with Egg Cheese & Salami. Appetizers feature variations of Empanadas and Alcapurias along with Bola de Papa (Potato Balls), Corn Sorululo de Maiz (Corn Fritters), Pincho de Pollo,

(Chicken Skewers) and Canoa de res con Queso, (Beef Canoe with Cheese). The lunch and dinner menu includes Pernil (Roast Pork), Carne Frita (Fried Pork), Pulpo (Octopus), Carrucho (Conch Meat), Cabro Guisado (Oxtail Stew), Rabo de Vaca (Oxtail), Mondongo (Beef Tripe) and Mollejas Guisadas (Chicken Stew), just to name a few selections. Their house specialty is Pasteles en Hoja Yunta (Puerto Rican Tamale). Additional favorites include Mofungo, Maduras, and Tostones. All lunch and dinner plates are served with Rice and Beans.

“I fell in love with my mother’s cooking at a young age, said Eduardo Castillo, the owner of Latino’s Cuisine. “This is my 26th year in the restaurant business offering good service and deli-

cious, home cooked food at affordable prices. Everything on the menu is prepared 100% fresh and you won’t find a microwave or a freezer in the restaurant.”

Eduardo saw a need for a Spanish restaurant at Holyoke Mall and even during the pandemic has felt blessed with his business. The 1,884-square foot restaurant has table seating available and is open for limited indoor dining, takeout and catering. Menu items range in price from \$2.00 to \$15.00. Guests can also enjoy a free lunch on their birthday with a valid photo ID.

“We’re delighted to bring our guests this exciting new dining option, and to also welcome another small business to the shopping center,” said Holyoke Mall’s General Manager, Bill Rogalski.

“Holyoke Mall is always looking to bring new and unique tenants to the center and the menu selection at Latino’s Cuisine is unlike anything else offered here.”

Latino’s Cuisine joins a list of tenants that have opened at Holyoke Mall over the last seven months including Cinnabon which opened in June, EA Teriyaki in October, and Wings Express and Furnari Jewelers, both of which opened in November. The restaurant also joins a list of small businesses at Holyoke Mall. Others include Theory Snow & Skate, The Greek Place, Graphic Stop, Sports Zone and A Touch of Beauty Nail & Spa. Latino’s Cuisine also has a restaurant at Holyoke Mall’s sister shopping center, Crossgates, located in Albany, NY.

## HMC seeks blood and plasma donors

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center is actively seeking blood and convalescent plasma donors. The center’s Blood Bank depends on area residents, their friends and neighbors to help meet the transfusion needs of the local community.

“The demand for convalescent plasma is higher than the supply that has been donated throughout the region. People who have recovered from COVID-19 are encouraged to make a donation and help save the lives of up to two people in our community,” said Jon Gronbach, director of laboratory services at Holyoke

Medical Center.

Convalescent plasma is a liquid component of blood from patients who have recovered from COVID-19. Patients who have recovered from the disease have antibodies to protect themselves to fight the virus. By making a blood and convalescent plasma donation, recovered patients can help others fight COVID-19 as well.

Blood and convalescent plasma supplies continue to be low and shortages persist in all categories. Emergency supplies from the Red Cross are often limited. More than 75 percent of the blood and

convalescent plasma needed by patients at the medical center comes from people living in Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley and the surrounding communities.

All eligible donors will receive a free recognition gift for their donation, and eligible convalescent plasma donors will receive a free COVID IgG test. The Blood Bank, located on the first floor of Holyoke Medical Center, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are required. For further information or to schedule an appointment, call the HMC Blood Bank at 413-534-2591.

### COLLEGE NOTE

## McGuinness named to President’s List

LOUDONVILLE, NY – Emily McGuinness was named to the Siena College President’s List for the Fall 2020 Semester. Emily is from Holyoke. The President’s List requires a 3.9 grade point average or higher.

## Run a half-marathon and help local veterans, military families

WARE — Here’s a great way to fulfill your New Year’s resolutions while helping local veterans and military families.

The Brookfield Institute’s Virtual HomeFront Strong Holiday Half-Marathon kicked off on Christmas Day. Runners and walkers can sign up now, then start training — and building resilience. Once the 13.1 miles have been completed in one fell swoop, the mileage from a tracking app can be sent to the organizers. Runners and walkers will receive a T-shirt. The fastest finishers

will be recognized on the Brookfield Institute website and on social media. The virtual half-marathon runs until Valentine’s Day.

The event is a fundraiser for the Brookfield Institute’s HomeFront Strong program, which connects trained volunteers with veterans and military families. The entry fee for the Half-Marathon is \$30. Runners and walkers of any age and ability are invited to participate.

To register, go to the Brookfield Institute website, [www.brookfieldinstitute.org](http://www.brookfieldinstitute.org).

## Homework house offers free virtual after school tutoring services

HOLYOKE – Homework House is offering free virtual after school tutoring services to elementary school children in need of extra academic support. Students in Holyoke as well as surrounding communities can take advantage of this individualized support at no cost. This service will be provided for students in first to sixth grade. All tutoring is provided in a safe virtual environment with qualified tutors.

Homework House has been offering quality after school tutoring for over thirteen years. During the pandemic, tutoring has been provided online and has included support in reading, math, and other areas where students need additional help. This service can lessen the burden of academic

support on parents and caretakers during the pandemic. It can also help to lift student achievement and combat learning loss at this time.

Tutors are retired teachers, education students from many local colleges, and community volunteers all who undergo a strict vetting process and are supervised by Homework House staff.

After school tutoring is offered Monday through Friday during the school year. To make an appointment for tutoring, or for more information about program, please contact Angel Coriano,

Director of Programs at 413-887-2012 or email him at [acoriano@homework-householyoke.org](mailto:acoriano@homework-householyoke.org).

### SCHOOL PRIDE



Kindergarten Dual Language English teacher Kate O’Donnell and instructional paraprofessional Norma Rodriguez show off their school pride with their masks.

*Submitted photo*

## Curbside corned beef dinner planned

HOLYOKE – The Ancient Order of Hibernians-James A. Curran Division One and The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Division Two of Hampden/Hampshire Counties are sponsoring a “2021 Irish Night in Holyoke-A Go Go”, a curbside pickup of a Traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner and Ribs prepared by the Log Cabin of Holyoke.

The event is Saturday, March 6, 2021 at the Log Cabin 500 Easthampton Rd. in Holyoke-pickup is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on that date. The cultural event

will benefit the Maurice A. Donahue Memorial Scholarship and is in memory of Daniel P. Curran.

The Log Cabin will prepare and feature a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner and ribs, hash, carrots, potatoes, brown bread, and dessert. The cost is \$25.00 per person and includes the meal and one entry into our 50/50 raffle.

For reservations contact Joe O’Connor at 413-627-7148 or Fran Hennessey at 413-785-5687 by Feb. 27 or online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). The Hibernian website is [aoh-holyoke.com](http://aoh-holyoke.com).

## GEAR UP Offers Virtual College Nights

HOLYOKE – GEAR UP is offering a Cool Virtual College night. Not only will students learn about the higher education experience they’re interested in, but they can also win prizes during the events.

Event dates and times:  
Community Colleges, Jan. 26 from 4

p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Four-year Public University, Jan. 27 from 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Four-year Private University, Jan. 28 from 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Registration link: MCAC Online (Jan. 26 to Jan. 28) Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite



# High School Quiz Show reaches new audience

BOSTON - Boston public media producer GBH's High School Quiz Show today announced Season 12 of the popular academic competition series while also introducing new digital features to the fan experience, including an interactive play-along stream of Season 5 on Twitch and an Alexa skill voiced by High School Quiz Show host Billy Costa. The broadcast of Season 12 will air on GBH 2 and GBH's YouTube channel, while the innovative experiences on Twitch and Amazon Alexa devices provide opportunities for local, national, and international High School Quiz Show fans to engage with the show more interactively than ever before, including the chance to compete with other fans and past contestants. High School Quiz Show is a bracket-style academic competition for teams of Massachusetts high school students, broadcast annually on GBH 2. Aside from Jeopardy!, High School Quiz Show is the most popular academic quiz show on American television. Over eleven previous seasons, more than 700 students from over 70 schools across the state have competed on the broadcast.

"As students across the Commonwealth and across the country have had to adjust to at-home learning this year, we are excited to introduce innovative ways to celebrate knowledge and include new audiences," said Jon Abbott, president and CEO of GBH. "This year, students and families will have the opportunity to test what they know against High School Quiz Show veterans in a fast-paced Twitch game week by week." High School Quiz Show's Season 12 will kick off with the annual Super Sunday event, which will be held virtually on Jan. 24, 2021. Schools from across the state will field teams of four students, tasked with taking an online quiz that covers a range of subjects, from literature and science to math, history and culture. The top 17 teams will move forward in Season 12, premiering on Saturday, April 3 at 6 p.m. on GBH 2. "High School Quiz Show is now a highly anticipated annual event for Massachusetts schools and communities to celebrate and showcase the academic prowess of their students," said

GBH Executive Producer and Director of Youth Media Hillary Wells. "In a year in which the majority of academic and athletic competitions available to students have been compromised, delayed or cancelled, we are committed to rewarding existing and newly formed teams for their passion, dedication and teamwork. As High School Quiz Show coaches across the Commonwealth have stated in support of their students, 'the show must go on.'" In addition to this year's televised tournament, High School Quiz Show has adapted the television broadcast of Season 5 for an interactive streaming experience on the GBH Twitch channel, which began on December 10th. Viewers everywhere are invited to participate and play along, allowing players to test themselves against peers and the Season 5 contestants as the broadcast streams. The multiple-choice games are streaming Mondays and Thursdays starting at 5pm ET at twitch.tv/gbhmedia. Fans also will be able to play along from Amazon Alexa devices beginning in January by prompting a brand new

Alexa skill, which will feature a new five-question category each week of the year, voiced by Costa. The deadline for Massachusetts high schools to register for Super Sunday is Friday, January 15. Schools interested in participating can register online at <https://www.wgbh.org/quiz-show/register>. High School Quiz Show is endorsed by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and the Massachusetts PTA. Questions on the show are aligned with the Massachusetts high school curriculum standards in subjects that include literature, history, civics, science and math, as well as current events, and general knowledge. Major funding for High School Quiz Show is provided by Safety Insurance. Additional funding is provided by the Museum of Science, Massachusetts Teachers Association, XFINITY from Comcast, Eastern Bank, Emerson College and Subaru of New England. For more information, visit [highschoolquizshow.org](https://highschoolquizshow.org) and [twitch.tv/gbhmedia](https://twitch.tv/gbhmedia) and follow the show on youtube, facebook, twitter and instagram.

# Dakin Humane Society Donors have options for donations

SPRINGFIELD- Dakin Humane Society, at 171 Union Street in Springfield, is offering Plush Pals, stuffed dogs and cats, as a way of leveraging the strength of its animal loving community to help children during these difficult times when contact and hugs have been minimized due to COVID-19. Individuals can request their own Plush Pal or select a "Get One, Give One" option while donating online, which includes a Plush Pal for themselves and another to be sent to a child at Square One. The Springfield-based non-profit organization provides support services and family-friendly education for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school-age children throughout the region. The Plush Pals stand eight inches high and are mailed out with a Hug Certificate as well as a photo of a special animal who was cared for at Dakin Humane Society. They can be request-

ed when donating online at <http://bit.ly/PlushPals>. "We began offering Plush Pals during the holiday season, and they are still available," said Dakin's Director of Development and Marketing Stacey Price. "Many people, including children, are hurting right now. They can't be with their friends, some do not have animals at home, and we want them to be able to connect with a loved one, in this case, a Plush Pal, and let them know that someone is thinking about them. This effort gives individuals the option to provide a Plush Pal to the children at Square One. Some of us have our pets to keep us company throughout the pandemic, but we wanted to do something for those who want that kind of companionship. Plush Pals give them something to cuddle and love." Square One was chosen as the recipient of this effort because of its longstanding commitment to helping children

in the Pioneer Valley, according to Price. "Their dedication to families, especially in the face of this pandemic, is remarkable, and given Dakin's mission to help animals and the people who love them, we thought this would be an opportunity to bring joy to children by giving them a special pet of their own." Dakin Humane Society delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them. The organization shelters, treats and fosters more than 20,000 animals each year and has performed more than 98,000 spay/neuter surgeries since 2009, making it New England's largest spay/neuter provider. Dakin is a local non-profit organization that relies solely on contributions from individuals and businesses that care about animals to bring its services to the community. For more information, visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org).



Plush Pals cat (left) and dog were delivered to two children at Square One in Springfield in December 2020. *Courtesy photo*

# Habitat for Humanity building two affordable homes

PELHAM - Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity is pleased to announce that applications are available for two three-bedroom homeownership opportunities in Pelham. The application deadline is Friday March 12, 2021. The sale price for the home will be \$155,000 or less. Eligible applicants will have incomes up to 60% of area median income which is adjusted for family size. People interested in submitting an application are invited to attend one of the following Zoom information sessions to learn more: 

- Saturday Jan. 23 at 10 a.m.
- Thursday Feb. 4 at 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Feb. 24 at 3:30 p.m.

 During the information session, potential applicants will learn about Habitat's selection criteria and how to prepare a complete application. The selection criteria include housing need, ability to make mortgage payments of \$700 to \$1,200/month, and willingness to partner with Habitat, such as participating in the construction of the home and other Habitat projects. More at <https://www.pvhabitat.org/apply/>.

All homes will be built to Energy Star standards and are designed to be visitable by someone in a wheel chair. All Habitat built homes are restricted to income eligible buyers in perpetuity. Since 1989, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity has built decent, affordable homes with 42 low income families in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. We build our homes with volunteer labor and donations of material, supplies, land, and services. At the onset of homebuilding, a family is selected and enters into a long term partnership with Pioneer Valley Habitat. Future homeowners contribute 250 hours of labor during the construction of their home alongside volunteers from the community. Upon completion, the home is sold to the family with an affordable mortgage. Habitat is a hand-up, not a hand-out: the organization has a perpetual legacy in that all mortgage funds received are reinvested to build more homes. We are a housing organization helping to bring stability to families, bringing more stability into our neighborhoods and communities.

# Free COVID-19 testing at HCC extended until March 31

HOLYOKE - Free "Stop the Spread" COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until March 31, 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health. Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college's main campus, 303 Homestead Ave. HCC has been serving as a "Stop the



Spread" drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic. The HCC testing site is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first come, first serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer. More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread> Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations: <https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>



Poetry Corner

God’s Arm

By Thomas J. Kennedy

Shakespeare we all know said:  
The world is a stage...  
I disagree...I say God’s word brings  
Us to stages, degrees  
And levels we live:

According to His word...  
And love with mercy  
And love with gentle hearts  
And kind justice.

There are season  
Did you capture them,  
In His Eternal Love  
Or are you still maturing  
In societal realm.

Some focus the word  
Too hard...too hard  
When it’s simply LOVE.



Guest Column

Do COVID-19 bonuses as income?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: I’m 63 and still working, and I receive Social Security benefits. Because of COVID-19 my employer has been giving us a \$300 bonus, every three months. This will be \$1,200 for the year and it will put me over the \$18,240 earnings limit for this year. My question is, since these bonuses are COVID-19 related are they still considered earned income? My second question is, if I go over the limit does Social Security stop my check, even if it might be a portion of the check? Signed: Working During COVID-19

Dear Working: Whether your 2020 earnings (and those bonuses) put you over the annual earnings limit will depend upon how the bonuses are reported on your federal income tax return (or your W-2 if you aren’t required to file). Your employer will send your W-2 earnings to the IRS which will, in turn, inform Social Security of your earnings. Social Security compares your 2020 W-2 earnings to the earnings limit to see if you exceeded the allowable limit. In other words, how your employer defines those COVID-19 bonuses and reports it to the IRS determines whether Social Security will count them

Social Security Matters

toward the earnings limit. You should check with your employer’s human resources department to see if your COVID-19 bonuses will be considered as taxable earnings reportable on your W-2.

If you exceed the limit, and you don’t inform Social Security in advance that you did, they won’t know about it until they receive your W-2 information from the IRS (sometime next year, after you file your income taxes). They will then send you a notification that you exceeded the limit and tell you how much you owe them, and they will want to recover \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by). They’ll give you the option to repay what they consider to be an overpayment in one lump sum, request a repayment plan or to have your Social Security benefits withheld for as many months as it takes for them to recover what you owe. Note they only withhold full months of benefits, not partial, so you could go several months without collecting any Social Security benefits until they recover what is owed.

The money they withhold because you exceeded the limit is not lost forever, because when you reach your full retirement age (66 ½ if you turned 63 in 2020) they will give

you time credit for any months they withheld benefits. That means they will move your effective claim date forward by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will result in a small increase in your benefit amount. But you’ll get that higher benefit for the rest of your life, enabling you to eventually recover the money they withheld because you exceeded the limit. And for your information, during the year you reach your full retirement age (FRA) the limit goes up and the penalty is less, and once you reach your FRA there is no longer a limit to how much you can earn while collecting benefits.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

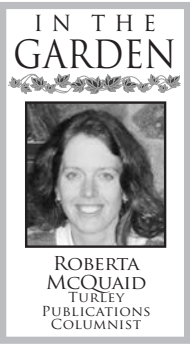
Guest Column

Midwinter garden musings

It was a lot of fun to get back in the groove garden-wise this week. No, my hands weren’t in the dirt, but I was definitely dreaming and scheming about the upcoming season, and reflecting on gardens past. Here are some musings that might be of interest to you.

One can presume that the resurgence in gardening we experienced last spring has continued into the new year. Because of unprecedented increases in ordering, two of my favorite mail order seed companies have limited days that you can place online orders and are stating that it will take anywhere from 10 days to six weeks for shipment. So I guess I would advise that if you haven’t placed your orders yet, it might be a good idea to do so.

On a sad note, I discovered that one of my favorite companies for flower seed, Stokes Seed, has discontinued flower seed altogether and is catering to commercial growers for its vegetable seed. Good thing I saved an outdated catalog for all of its valuable cultural information. It was here that I learned that cleome seeds like alternating temperatures to germinate well, to the tune of 85 degrees by day and 65 degrees by night! Or that salvia seed needs light to germinate; don’t cover these seeds, just push them into the soil surface.



One thing that always appealed to me about this company was the number of varieties that it offered for each flower type. In my old catalog, I counted no less than 22 kinds of petunias in dozens of colors choices. It will take a bit of research to find a replacement for this company but I am guessing there is one or more out there.

The hyacinth bulbs that sat in my 50-degree mudroom since October sometime were put in forcing glasses a little over a week ago, and already have roots that stretch inches into the water. It has been an ongoing joke in my house that if you stood there long enough you could watch them grow. Top growth has started, ever so slightly. I cannot wait for the blooms to perfume my house! Did you ever get “itchy” after handling hyacinth bulbs? I do, and it is a common reaction for many people. The weird thing is, my hands rarely itch, but it I happen to touch my face or my neck with a hand that touched a hyacinth bulb I had better wash up and quickly!

The rosemary plant that I potted up before the first hard frost is doing great. It gets late morning sun and sits in a comfortable 50-degree location indoors. Old houses are great in that respect; they offer lots of little microclimates for our gardening pass-time. I

water it as needed, typically every five days or so. It hasn’t flowered, but should soon. Long nights initiate the flowering response. This year it grew so big that I could barely lift it on my own. It may be a good idea to think about taking some cuttings this spring and retiring the old girl. We’ll see.

The best cuttings are those taken with a little new growth. Find where the tip of the stem bends on its own and that is where you should take your cutting. Keeping a large rosemary on board is reminiscent of my teenage years when my parents would cover and uncover the two large specimens we’d overwinter on our unheated porch. We were successful at it for many years in a row.

As I look back I think it is pretty neat that my parents cared enough about my blossoming career to go through the hassle of putting blankets on rosemary plants every night!

On that note, I hope that you too are able to find your groove this week, gardening or elsewhere.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



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A Quote

OF NOTE

“The American people await action. They didn’t send us here to bicker. They ask us to rise above the merely partisan.”

George H.W. Bush

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.



The collaboration will provide patients throughout western Massachusetts with improved access to pediatric specialty care at Baystate Children's Hospital, and it will streamline care planning among providers at Boston Children's and Baystate Children's. The collaboration anticipates that the two hospitals will jointly develop pathways to ensure that children and adolescents get the right care in the right setting. In

Dr. Charlotte Boney, Chair of the

"At Boston Children's, we are committed to providing comprehensive pediatric care -- close to home whenever pos-

The collaboration builds on the strong working relationship that currently exists between the two hospitals. The two hospitals already work collaboratively in cardiology, neurology and dermatology, and by enhancing medical education, remote consults, information technology and other initiatives, the two institutions will be better able to coordinate care for their patients.

This program is open to all members of the public, but has been specially designed to address the needs



To register for Eleanor Roosevelt, Val Kill, and Her Legacy or any future programs, please visit [www.Wistariahurst.org](http://www.Wistariahurst.org) or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at [maginnise@holyoke.org](mailto:maginnise@holyoke.org). If you have an idea for a topic you'd like to be considered for a future Wistariahurst session, please contact [info@wistariahurst.org](mailto:info@wistariahurst.org).

“Scott was an invaluable member of the Patriot Wing for more than 16 years and his sudden loss is heartfelt across the wing as he and his family remain in our thoughts and prayers,” Peters said. “All efforts are now focused on provid-

For more information, please contact Westover Air Reserve Base Public Affairs at 439AW.PA@us.af.mil or 413-557-2020.

For your convenience, you can pur-

The chamber is also looking for sponsors for the event. If you're interested in sponsoring this Event, please contact Steven Laplante at [steven.laplante@era.com](mailto:steven.laplante@era.com) or Melissa Whitelock at [melissa@shgchamber.com](mailto:melissa@shgchamber.com).

To qualify students must:

1. Be a resident of New England.

6. The deadline to apply is March 12, 2021.



1. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
5. 2014 Winter Olympics host
10. Soft fabric
12. Covered in flowers
14. Works at a college or university
16. Keeps us cool
18. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
19. Similar
20. Birthplace of Muhammad
22. They \_\_\_\_
23. Preamble to a book
25. Southern China people
26. Hair product
27. The woman
28. Partner to cheese
30. One point north of due east
31. Round Dutch cheese
33. Be in awe of
35. Christmas song

37. Emits coherent radiation **CLUES DOWN**

38. Something that is comparable to another
40. Monetary unit
41. The cutting part of a drill
42. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
44. Touch lightly
45. Toyota SUV
48. \_\_\_ and Andy, TV show
50. Made less dangerous
52. Assets under management (abbr.)
53. Nostrils
55. Moved quickly
56. Thai isthmus
57. TV personality Roker
58. Honors anew
63. Rags
65. One who obtains pleasure from inflicting pain or others
66. Marketplaces
67. Dark brown or black
1. Nowhere to be found (abbr.)
2. Not new
3. Brew
4. Stain with mud
5. Chief or leader
6. Luke Skywalker's mentor \_\_\_-Wan
7. Type of sauce
8. Sharpens
9. Priestess loved by Zeus
10. Jean Henri \_\_\_, French entomologist
11. Regulates supply of fuel
13. Disturbing and horrifying
15. Equal (prefix)
17. Hoses film festival
18. Tattered piece of clothing
21. Rich desserts
23. Unique motor (abbr.)
24. Disfigure
27. Chemical substance

29. Slang for famous person  
32. Department of Labor  
34. The A-team rode around in one  
35. Beach cabin  
36. Living things  
39. Gun (slang)  
40. Disconsolate  
43. Stroke gently  
44. Actress Richards  
46. "Cletus Hogg" actor  
47. Returned material authorization (abbr.)  
49. Brazilian mountain range  
51. Upset  
54. One with supernatural insight  
59. Insecticide  
60. Taxi  
61. "Much\_\_about nothing"  
62. Cannister  
64. Popular clothing retailer

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9



AWARDS TIME



Sisters Gemma and Gia Cannici both received Student of the Month for Integrated Preschool at E.N. White School.

Submitted photo

SUNRISE, SUNSET



The Holyoke Sun loves submissions from our readers. Please send news and photos to thesun@turley.com and see your photos printed in our newspaper and online.

Photo by Kara Walsh-Vey

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# SPORTS

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## Live-streaming could be available for games

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – Basketball and hockey may be starting up in the next week or two depending on what school you are playing for, but your ability to catch a game is about as limited as your ability to go to the TD Garden or Fenway Park.

But your favorite high school action may be coming, and for free, to a handheld or other computer device near you.

Many schools, beginning this week with Quabbin Regional's regular season basketball games, will be made available to its faithful utilizing a couple of platforms.

Quabbin's games will be seen on its YouTube channel.

Several schools have YouTube channels, where it now video tapes or streams various events live for people to see. The trend became popular last year in June when many schools lost out on their traditional graduation ceremonies.

It is unclear if those types of ceremonies will be able to return this year, making the ability to stream so people who cannot be there in person can watch, even more important.

There are more ways var-

ious schools in the region will stream games for fans. Among them, Agawam and several other schools will utilize Facebook, while others may use the National Federation of High Schools website to do games.

Hockey games at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield will utilize a website called Livebarn. There will be no fans allowed at swim meets, though many schools are planning to stream those events utilizing social media.

Regardless of the platform, there could be many high school

games available to fans during the next months, making it possible for fans to be able to stay in on the action for this season. The trend could continue outdoors next month if football games are unable to have fans at their games, though guidance have not been issued and things could drastically change in the next month depending on the government's ability to step up vaccinations under the Biden administration.

Fan rule policies were made

See GAMES, page 8



Hockey games this season may be found on Livebarn or a school's social media website.



Social media sites like Facebook or Youtube channels could be used by area high schools to livestream winter sporting events.

File photos

## Tri track modified series confirms six 2021 dates

SEEKONK – The Tri Track Open Modified Series officials confirmed on Tuesday six dates for the 2021 season. The series will compete at three different tracks in two different New England states, headlined by multiple staple events and the anticipated return to Massachusetts.

Fans can expect a return to Monadnock Speedway (twice), two stops at Star Speedway, including the 10th annual SBM, and two stops at Seekonk Speedway -- including the prestigious \$10,000 to

win Open Wheel Wednesday and the fan-favorite Haunted Hundred.

The season begins back on the high-banks of Monadnock, in Winchester, New Hampshire, with a 100-lap feature on Saturday, May 1. The date will be part of Monadnock's opening Spring Dash weekend, which will also include their NASCAR Advance Auto Parts Weekly Racing Series divisions and the Granite State Pro Stock Series. Tri Track will

See TRACK, page 8



The Tri Track Open Modified Series will have six dates in 2021 for its competition.

Submitted photo

## Tournaments for baseball in question

By Gregory A. Scibelli  
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – As time continues to run short on the various 2020-2021 seasons, the opportunity for area fans to see their favorite sports' sectional tournaments is running out.

When the majority of the member schools in Massachusetts voted for the

change to a statewide tournament and eliminate the sectional tournaments sponsored by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, many Western Mass. schools voted against the idea.

The Western Mass. tournament, especially in certain sports like soccer and basketball, has been an important event to the region between the

ability to obtain bragging rights for an area of the state often segregated from the rest.

The 2020-2021 school was set to be the final year with a sectional tournament, a sobering fact for fans of soccer and basketball who were used to the spectacle of seeing the best teams compete for the soccer title at big venues like Westfield State University, and Curry Hicks Cage in the case of basketball.

In the spring, UMass is also a very popular site, often hosting the semifinals and finals of the Western Mass. softball and baseball tournaments. The sites also host state semifinal games on a rotating basis.

Recently, the baseball committee under the MIAA was discussing the possibilities of whether or not there will be a tournament this spring. The fall and winter tournaments were already cancelled, denying fans their opportunity to have a final sectional under the MIAA banner.

At their Jan. 6 meeting, the committee established a sub-committee to begin studying potential rule changes to the game along with an end-of-season tournament proposal.

The baseball season is cur-

See BASEBALL, page 8



The spring baseball tournament is still in question as conditions in six months are hard to predict right now.

File photo



# Western United Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The fall clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. There are two sessions available. sign up for one or both. It makes a great holiday

gift for friends and family members. This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session (\$130 for 2 sessions). Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for

the players’ safety).  
SESSION 1: MONDAYS 1/25, 2/1, and 2/8  
• Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.  
• Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.  
SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1,

3/8, and 3/15  
• Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.  
• Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.  
The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

## Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmass-relics.org>.

## New umpires needed

REGION – The Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpire Association is looking for individuals who are interested in umpiring baseball at the high school and youth level. The WMBUA services high school baseball and various other leagues in the Greater Springfield area/ Hampden County. The WMBUA’s first year members class will be held for roughly five to six weeks, beginning in February. The class dates right now are fluid as the organization monitors what happens with the COVID-19

pandemic. Class is usually one or two nights per week from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The class takes place in the First Baptist Church of East Longmeadow’s classrooms at 50 Parker Street. Classes may also be virtual if COVID-19 does not allow for in-person meetings. If you are interested in taking the classes, contact Chris Meffen, the WMBUA Secretary, via email at [cmeffen8017@gmail.com](mailto:cmeffen8017@gmail.com) or visit the WMBUA website at <http://wmbua.org>.

## Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

## TRACK, from page 7

visit Monadnock for a second time on Saturday, August 14, joined again by Monadnock’s weekly divisions. The track has been a regular circuit on the Tri Track schedule -- one that places series regulars against the weekly competitors, which often come close to Victory Lane. Craig Lutz and Sam Rameau won events at Monadnock in a COVID-19 shortened 2020 season.

On May 22, Tri Track will return

to Star Speedway in Epping, New Hampshire, for the first of two dates on the 2021 calendar. Star has also been well-known for the annual SBM event, which returns for the 10th annual feature spectacular on Saturday, July 24. Two dates at Star in the midst of their packed schedule will give race fans a chance to watch Modifieds tear up the quarter-mile again. Matt Hirschman, a five-time and defending Tri Track champion, went to Victory Lane at Star last year.

With two dates, the return to Massachusetts and Seekonk Speedway

is highly anticipated by the series, teams, drivers and fans. Seekonk will host the annual \$10,000 to win Open Wheel Wednesday event on Wednesday, June 30, and also host the Haunted Hundred on Saturday, Oct. 23. As part of the Haunted Hundred -- for the first time -- all three races during the day will be 100 laps. Tri Track headlines the action, crowning the 2021 champion, while the stars of the Pro All Star Series (PASS) and American Canadian Tour (ACT) will also compete in their championship events during the

season-finale, which will also end the 75th year of full-time racing at Seekonk in style. The 2021 schedule is subject to change due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Registration for the 2021 season will open on January 28, to be completed by drivers and teams through the Tri Track website. More information will be released closer to that date. For more information on the Tri Track Open Modified Series, visit [TriTrackModifieds.com](http://TriTrackModifieds.com) and follow the series on social media.

## GAMES, from page 7

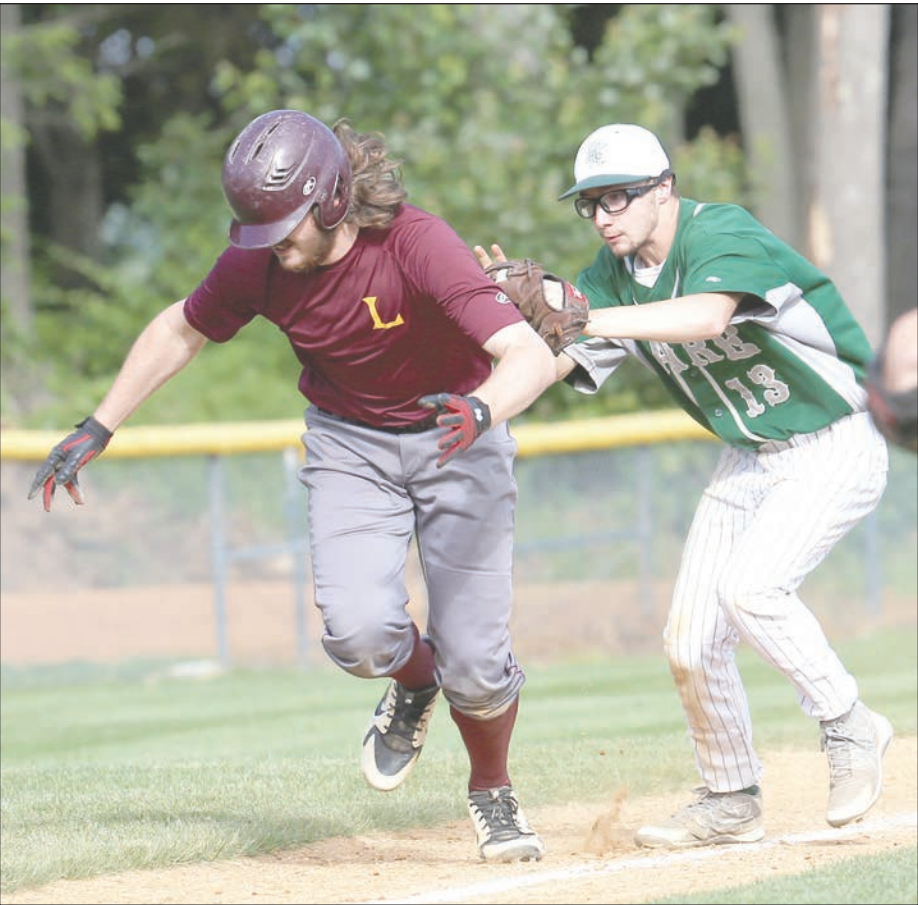
by the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Association. Despite hesitation over being indoors, up to two home fans per students will be allowed in some schools, much like the fall policy, Agawam Athletic Director and PVIAC Board member David Stratton said.

Not all schools will host fans, how-

ever, and much of it depends on how strict a particular town’s school department or health department is about the issue. Fans who are allowed to attend basketball or hockey games must be masked and social distance. With basketball having much smaller rosters than soccer and field hockey, it should limit the number of people attending games.

### How to contact the Sports Editor

Have the scoop on a local sports story? Want to submit a team photo, pass along a potential story idea, or just find out how to get a copy of that great photo of your young athlete? Please send all sports-related press releases and information to Sports Editor Greg Scibelli at: [sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com) or call, 1-413-283-8393.



UMass has been a popular site for the Western Mass. baseball tournament.

File photo

## BASEBALL, from page 7

rently scheduled to begin in late April, falling the “bubble” or Fall 2 season. Any tournament may be held at the end of June and there is more of a chance for a tournament versus other seasons because the vaccination effort for COVID-19 could be in more advance stages leading to a relaxing of social distancing and large gathering guidelines. Schedules and tournaments have been largely influenced by an inter-

est in keeping interactions limited. Tournaments that draw lots of fans and matchups between random schools paired together in brackets were eliminated in favor of playing in small geographic bubbles and keeping most schools playing just a small number of opponents. Baseball could also see some rule changes, though those modifications could be limited because the sport largely allows for social distancing and very limited contact between players on the same or opposing teams.

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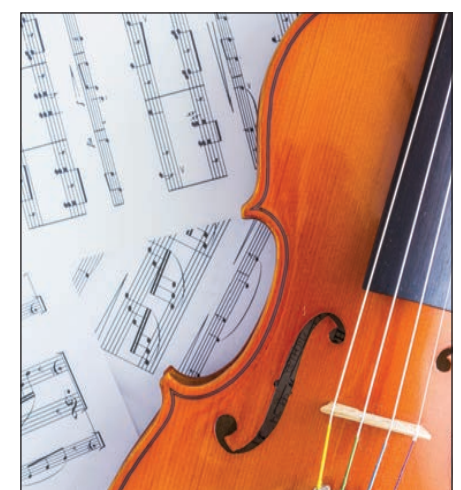
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# Virtual airing of MIFA concerts set for this weekend

Submitted photo

In lieu of the free will donations the

For more information on the activities and virtual offerings of the Agawam Cultural Council during the stay-at-home order, please visit their web site, [www.agawamcc.org](http://www.agawamcc.org). The Agawam Cultural Council is an all-volunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



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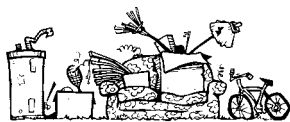
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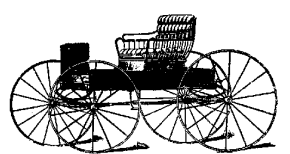
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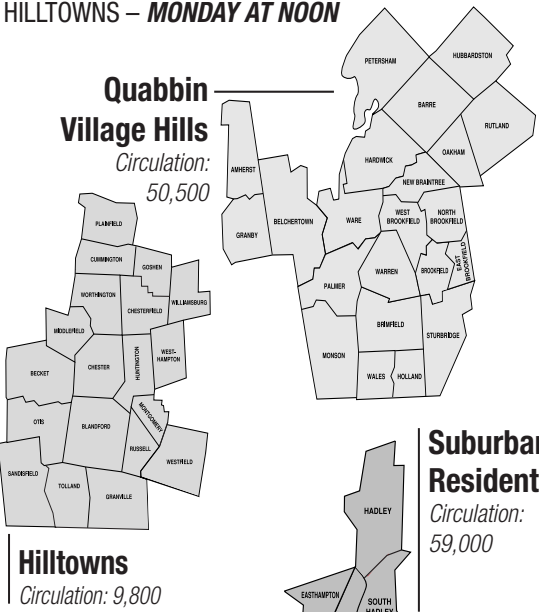
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17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
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25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
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## Classified Advertising DEADLINES

**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON**

**HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON**

## MOVEMENT, from page 1

MIGHTY, funded by a grant from Kohl's Cares, is an evidence-based, multi-component pediatric weight management program for children with a body mass index above the 95th percentile. This free program meets twice per month, over a six-month period. During each two-hour session, children and their families engage with exercise specialists, nutritionists and behavioral health workers in classroom instruction and group exercise sessions.

To be eligible for the MIGHTY Program, participants must be at or above the 95th percentile for body mass index (BMI), provide a medical clear-

ance form signed by their health care provider and attend a registration session, Thursday, Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. with the child at the YMCA of Greater Westfield. Registration is now open.

Space is limited while adhering to the social distancing guideline. To register, contact YMCA of Greater Westfield, Cindy Agan, Health & Wellness Director, 413-568-8631, cagan@westfieldymca.org.

The YMCA of Greater Westfield is committed to be the leader in improving the quality of life for members of our community by providing cause-driven programs for individuals and families focusing on youth development, on healthy living and on social responsibility.

## TAX, from page 1

VITA volunteers assist low wage earners complete their 2020 federal and state income tax returns in addition to the earned income tax credits, child tax credit and education credits. Further making sure taxpayer claim and receive all state and federal tax benefits, including the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a federal income tax benefit designed to assist working families. It has been called the most significant federal program of lifting Americans out of poverty.

Paul F. Bailey, executive director, said, "although we are closed to the public, the agency continues to assist participants. "This year due to COVID-19 we are implementing a new system using a drop box method. Drop box will allow participants to safely drop-off all required tax documents in advance. Volunteer tax preparers will complete

and follow up. Completed taxes will be mailed or we can arrange for pickups".

Springfield Partners also offer the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) designed to assist taxpayers having issues before the IRS and/or the State Department of Revenue. If you've received a notice form either state of federal tax authority or if you need to file prior year taxes you should call Mary Ellen at 413-263-6500 ext. 6565 or Marty O'Connor at 413-263-6500 ext. 6566.

Springfield Partners is the official anti-poverty agency serving greater Springfield and parts of Western MA. We offer several programs and services including Eviction Clinic, Housing Counseling, Credit Counseling, Financial Literacy, Weatherization, Veterans Services, Emergency Fuel, New Beginnings Early Education & Care, COVID-19 Emergency Response, Scholarships and Telephone Reassurance.

## HACKED, from page 1

deered by individuals whose behavior was reprehensible. This behavior is not tolerated and in no way reflects our ideals within the Holyoke Public Schools Community. Please know that the District is conducting an investigation so that this type of incident does not happen again.

"Again, we are so very sorry that our families and staff had to endure such revolting behavior. We value our Holyoke Public Schools community and expect that everyone is treated with respect and dignity. We will be in contact with families to resched-

ule this very important meeting."

When the hacking incident occurred, the meeting was disbanded, which is why the school district plans to reschedule.

Receiver/Superintendent Dr. Alberto Vazquez Matos did not make a statement about the incident prior to press time.

The Holyoke Public Schools remain in remote learning, though some special education programs are operating in-person. A return-to-school plan has been in the works for many weeks, but was postponed when the second spike began and COVID-19 case numbers begin increasing significantly in the city.

## RACE, from page 1

We understand that this isn't a replacement for the real thing but running with 7,000 others right now is not possible, but we will try to make it just as fun! This March we will hold the second Virtual Holyoke St Patrick's Day Road Race. Create your own 10K route (or use ours!) and compete against other runners. We will provide a familiar looking t-shirt, printable custom bib number, free beer, and local

giveaways.

Go to <http://racewire.com/register.php?id=11824> for all the details to register.

Lastly, thank you for your patience and support over the last year. The St. Patrick's Committee of Holyoke works tirelessly year-round to make this "Homecoming Weekend" the best one of the year. We look forward to the opportunity to host you on the streets of Holyoke for the 45th running of the Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race in March 2022.

## MORSE, from page 1

report that it stated exactly what he said when the allegations were brought forward.

"I did not violate any school poli-

cies," Morse said.

Because he was found not to have violated any policies, Morse said he will be considering his legal options.

Morse is not running for re-election as mayor of Holyoke following a 10-year tenure in that position.

Read The Sun online at [www.sun.turley.com](http://www.sun.turley.com)



# UMass Fine Arts Center announces virtual spring season

AMHERST – This spring the UMass Fine Arts Center takes full advantage of the virtual world to engage and inspire audiences with over 40 online events featuring renowned artists like visual artist Alison Saar and the South African choral icons Ladysmith Black Mambazo.

Audiences can witness musicians from around the world perform in the newest configuration of the Silkroad Ensemble and enjoy the return of audience favorites like cellist Matt Haimovitz. “This moment to pivot enabled us to expand our reach, allowing us to bring the wonders of the arts to more communities in our richly diverse region,” said Director Jamilla Deria.

In keeping with tradition, the first event of the semester is the annual Fine Arts Center Galahosted via Zoom on Feb. 6, and sponsored by Greenfield/Northampton Cooperative Bank. With the theme of “Relive-Renew-Reimagine,” the virtual version of this beloved and historically sold-out event celebrates and supports the Arts/Access outreach programs of the Fine Arts Center.

The presentation includes a trivia contest and prizes sponsored by Florence Bank and a “mini” silent auction featuring work by Tom Friedman and Laura Radwell. The evening concludes with a virtual dance party to an original set by FEVER, thanks to Finck & Perras Insurance. Registration is required and while the event is free, guest are asked to make a donation at whichever level they are comfortable.

The performing arts season kicks off with Ladysmith Black Mambazo on Feb. 17. The concert recorded in South Africa features the chorus performing the songs of unity and love that have made them globally renowned.

On April 25 as part of the UMass Bach Festival, renowned cellist Matt Haimovitz presents a virtual presentation of his “Bach Listening-Room” repertoire focused on Bach’s solo cello suites. To



close out the season on April 29, members of the Grammy Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble present highlights from their more than 20-year trajectory recorded from all over the planet.

For families, the Fine Arts Center welcomes the virtual tour premiere of Manual Cinema’s “Leonardo & Sam: the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World, Respectively,” on April 11. Inspired by the beloved books by Mo Willems, the piece is realized through Manual Cinema’s critically acclaimed use of projection, shadow puppetry, and immersive sound to create a live cinematic experience.

The Bodies at Risk series, featuring BIPOC artists in creative dialogue about the racialized body and social justice, continues from the fall. In conjunction with UMass Dance and Five College Dance Department’s virtual conference, “Beyond the Proscenium,” hip-hop based choreographers Rennie Harris and Jon Boogz talk on March 13, followed by a conversation between indigenous dance artist and company director, Emily Johnson, and choreographer and disability rights activist, Alice Sheppard, on March 18.

The Reimagine Artist Residency series introduced last fall continues to feature groundbreaking artists as they redefine what it means to be socially engaged artists. Performance artist Kristina Wong returns on March 1 to present her virtual piece born from the COVID-19 pandemic, “Sweatshop Overlord.” Inspired by her experience forming “Auntie’s Sewing Squad,” the work grew into a now national grass roots effort to provide masks and more to communities in need. Multimedia artist Miwa Matreyek will be in residence focused around her climate-based work, “Infinitely Yours,” leading workshops and participating in a climate crisis panel in collaboration with the UMass School for Earth & Sustainability and the MFA for Poets and Writers.

Additional programming includes Japanologist Alex Kerr discussing his book “Lost Japan”; jazz performances by the Fay Victor Chamber Trio and Zaccai Curtis Afro-Cuban Quartet; and a Valley Jazz Network performance and conversation event focused on jazz and gender featuring Grammy-award winning drummer Teri Lyne Carrington.

The University Museum of Contemporary Art has three virtual exhibitions this spring. Of special note is “Mirror Mirror: The Prints of Alison Saar” from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his Family Foundation.

For the exhibition “We Are For Freedoms,” the Museum commissioned a series of posters from local and regional artists, asking them to visually respond to their interpretation of freedom.

The third exhibition, “Artifacts at the End of a Decade,” the Museum’s annual Curatorial Fellowship Exhibition, was originally scheduled to debut in March 2020, and features a portfolio of work that has not been on view in its entirety since 1989. Each exhibition will be on view online February through April and features live virtual events with the artists and curators involved in each.

Augusta Savage Gallery continues with its 50th anniversary theme, “Healing Bodies,” presenting exhibitions by women from Northampton’s Anchor House of Artists, New Mexico-based artist Carolyn Mae Lassiter, and a posthumous celebration of the work of Brettney Young. Each virtual exhibition launches with an opening reception on Zoom. Additionally, the Gallery hosts artist JuPong Lin’s installation, “Poetics of Repair – Being Earth, Being Water,” a participatory installation of poetry and paper cranes and canoes, “concocting a medicine of de-colonial love to mend our ravaged world.”

Hampden Gallery launches Feb. 1 with a group exhibition “CURRENT UNDERCURRENT” curated by Linda Griggs and M. Charlene Stevens, a visual conversation relating to current events such as COVID-19, gender, racial justice and climate change, featuring over 30 artists. Hampden’s spring schedule also features solo exhibitions by artists Bruce Ackerson and Alicia Renadette.

Fine Arts Center venues including the box office, Augusta Savage Gallery, Hampden Gallery and the University Museum of Contemporary Art, remain closed to the public until further notice. Full program details are available at [fineartscenter.com](http://fineartscenter.com). Some events have a nominal access fee per household or device; many are free. For more questions, the box office can be reached by email at [facbox@umass.edu](mailto:facbox@umass.edu) and by phone at 413-545-2511 or 800-999-UMAS Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., hours subject to change.

The UMass Fine Arts Center is supported by the New England Foundation for the Arts through the New England Arts Resilience Fund, part of the United States Regional Arts Resilience Fund, an initiative of the U.S. Regional Arts Organizations and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with major funding from the federal CARES Act from the National Endowment for the Arts.

## UMass to present livestreamed concert by Kathryn Lockwood

AMHERST – On Friday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m., the University of Massachusetts Amherst Department of Music and Dance will present a free solo performance by viola professor Kathryn Lockwood. The concert, which will be livestreamed from Bezanson Recital Hall to the department’s YouTube Channel, will feature performances of J.S. Bach’s Suite No. 5 in C minor, Max Reger’s Viola

Suite No. 2 in D Major and György Kurtág’s Signs, Games and Messages for Viola.

Lockwood has been actively performing during the pandemic as a member of world-music ensemble duo Jalal with percussionist Yousif Sheronick. The ensemble has staged live streamed performances from the historic Hempstead House at New York’s Sands Point Preserve.

## Participate in virtual photograph show

AGAWAM – Please join us online to participate in our first virtual photography show. Since we couldn’t do our usual exhibit at the library, we moved it online so we can continue to share outstanding photography with our community, and to support our beloved library. Officially, this is our First Open Virtual Photography Show. Categories include creative, nature, pictorial, and photojournalism, and the photography never disappears.

Awards totaling \$1,340 have been

determined by our esteemed judges Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both highly respected photographers. Their comments are available online, along with the photographs, so the Show can continue to be an educational experience for participants.

The show can be accessed at [www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#-FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual](http://www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#-FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual). For further information please contact Bob Kadis at [r.kadis@comcast.net](mailto:r.kadis@comcast.net) or at 413-789-4814.

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